

NIEHS News

Biennial Report on Carcinogens

The National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors met in a public session at NIEHS on 6 April 1994. The board, predominantly composed of scientists from outside government, is the principal body providing scientific oversight and review to NTP. A major agenda item was the proposal that the board play a role in reviewing the criteria for inclusion of substances in the *Biennial Report on Carcinogens* (formerly the *Annual Report on Carcinogens*) as well as in reviewing chemicals, substances, and processes nominated for upcoming editions.

The board adopted a resolution that a new subcommittee of the board should be created to review the biennial report. The subcommittee should include selected members of the board, ad hoc reviewers, and liaison members from the NIEHS and other agencies. The new subcommittee should begin by convening a working group to review the criteria for listing in the biennial report. The NTP board should approve the work of the subcommittee.

NIEHS, UNC and Duke Instate Training Program

In July 1993, NIEHS entered into 10-year contracts with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and Duke University Medical Center for collaboration in clinical research and training. Recently NIEHS and the universities instated a training program for physicians and nurses in environmental clinical sciences. The program will provide a two- to three-year program in environmental medicine, the study of diseases and other conditions related to exposure to physical and chemical agents.

Duke and UNC will coordinate the training as a single program under an advisory board of members representing all three institutions. Trainees will be based at either university, depending upon the trainee's primary clinical interests and preference. To avoid duplication, certain training elements may be offered at only one medical center. At the outset, two physicians and one nurse will be accepted as trainees at each university. Split or paired fellowships are possible for those who wish less than a full-time commitment.



Sandra Lange. New director of NTP liaison office will work to strengthen communication and collaboration.

During the first year, trainees will take graduate courses on topics such as research design, epidemiology, statistics, pharmacology, toxicology, occupational health, and ethics. They will spend at least one year, usually the second in a two-year program, at a branch or laboratory of NIEHS working with an experienced investigator who will serve as a scientific mentor, along with clinical investigators at Duke and UNC. A trainee's program for a third year will be extended to allow a second year in the laboratory, if needed, at the request of the trainee with the approval of the principal investigator, mentor, and training advisory board.

Those selected for the program must be U.S. citizens. Physicians must have at least one year post-medical training, be licensed or eligible for licensure in North Carolina, with board eligibility strongly recommended. Because there is no single medical discipline that covers all aspects of basic and clinical environmental health science, physicians may be chosen from any medical discipline. Nurses must have a bachelor's or master's degree, be eligible for licensure in North Carolina, and have at least one year of clinical experience.

Interested physicians should contact either Eugene P. Orringer, UNC Hospital School of Medicine, (919) 966-1435, FAX (919) 966-1576; or Edward L.C. Pritchett, Duke University Medical Center, (919) 684-6720, FAX (919) 681-7918.

Interested nurses should contact either: Carol F. Baker, Nursing Education and

NTP PRIORITIES AND PROCEDURES

Chemical and Issues Nomination

- Industry
- Environmental groups
- Unions
- Federal regulatory agencies
- State regulatory agencies
- Toxic release inventories
- Exposure surveys
- Public

Risk Assessment

TSCA-EPA

Priority Setting

Research, UNC Hospital School of Medicine, (919) 966-1435, FAX (919) 966-1576; or Barbara Turner, School of Nursing, Duke University Medical Center, (919) 684-3786, FAX (919) 681-8899.

NTP Liaison Office

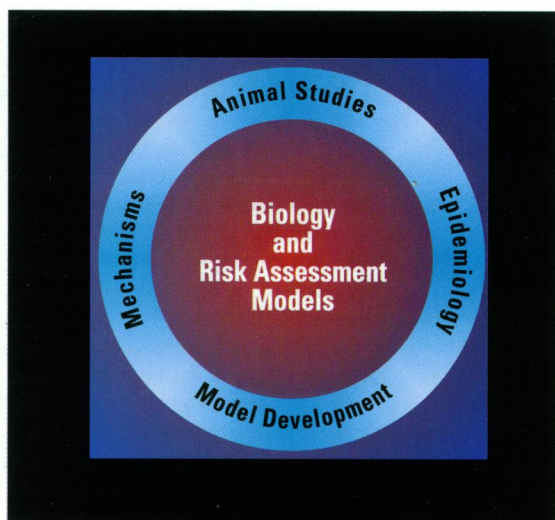
Sandra Lange has been named director of the newly established NTP Liaison Office. "The establishment of the NTP Liaison Office is a further effort to strengthen our communication and working relationships with state and local governments; with other agencies within the federal government, industry, labor, academia, and all segments of the public," said Kenneth Olden, NIEHS director. Lange accepted the directorship of the new office after serving as director of the NIEHS Office of Communications. Lange is a member of the NIEHS Executive Committee and will work within the office of George Lucier, acting director of the Environmental Toxicology Program.

Founded in 1978, the National Toxicology Program coordinates toxicology studies and methods research, development, and validation within the Department of Health and Human Services, under the Assistant Secretary of Health. In 1978, the NTP built upon the Bioassay Program of the National Cancer Institute and has continuously broadened the scope of toxicological studies to include multiple toxicological disease endpoints in addition to tumors. NTP encompasses of the National Institutes of Health's NIEHS

and the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Food and Drug Administration's National Center for Toxicological Research.

NTP has published a series of technical reports, which summarize two-year, both gender, two-species (rats and mice) studies of more than 400 chemicals. NTP staff has published extensively in scientific journals reporting toxicological studies and methods development and validation.

The purpose of the new NTP Liaison office is to increase public awareness of NTP's research, new directions, and priorities, and broaden both working relationships and dialogue with the many constituencies with interests related to the NTP. An early priority will be increasing input to the NTP nomination and selection process. NTP seeks nominations of high-priority chemicals or other environmental agents of public health concern, as well as nominations of chemical issues in need of further study. Inquiries relating to the NTP may be made to Sandra Lange, National Toxicology Program Liaison Office, PO Box 12233, MD A2-01, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541-0530, FAX (919) 541-0295.



Olden Announces Initiatives

Kenneth Olden, NIEHS director, has identified 35 priority areas as NIEHS initiatives. These initiatives will receive the attention of senior management at NIEHS. The initiatives are programs that NIEHS has undertaken over the past two years that are targeted for special monitoring and development. Each initiative has been assigned to one or more members of the NIEHS executive committee or other members of senior staff for day-to-day management and long-term planning. The assigned persons will present goals and objectives, both short and long term, and parameters that will be used to monitor their particular programs.

Olden emphasized that these 35 initiatives in no way diminish the institute's commitments to other areas of research. Rather, the initiatives have been identified to give special focus in priority areas where it is thought that expanded, coordinated efforts will be effective.

The NIEHS initiatives will be highlighted in summaries in NIEHS News in coming issues of *EHP*, beginning this issue with an article on mechanistic toxicology and risk assessment in the National Toxicology Program. A list of all 35 initiatives, which include agricultural chemicals, global climate change, women's health, and lead and other metals, will be published in a future issue of *EHP*.

ERRATA

In the NIEHS News section of the January 1994 issue of *EHP*, an announcement appeared describing NIEHS efforts to establish a toll-free environmental health clearinghouse. Assistance in identifying appropriate sources of information was requested; however, an incorrect address was provided. Please address information to Finis Cavender, Information Ventures Inc., 100 Capitola Drive, Suite 108, Durham, NC 27713, (919) 361-0570, FAX (919) 361-9408.



At the helm. (left to right) Deputy Program Director John Bucher and Acting Director George Lucier of the Environmental Toxicology Program are guiding the NTP in new directions.